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Excavations

in

Escalerillas Street, City of Mexico,

by

Leopoldo Batres



Year 1900

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

EXPLORATIONS

IN

ESCALERILLAS STREET,

CITY OF MEXICO,

BY

Leopoldo Batres,

GENERAL INSPECTOR
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS,

Year 1900.

MEXICO

J. Aguilar Vera & Co., Printers.—Santa Clara Street, No. 15.

1902

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HIS EXCELLENCY GEN. PORFIRIO DIAZ,
President of the Republic of Mexico.



Hon. JOAQUIN BARANDA,
Minister of Justice and Public Education.



Hon. EZEQUIEL CHAVEZ,
Chief of the Bureau of Higher and Professional Education.

Introduction.

Since the sanitary works of the city of Mexico were begun, I understood to its fullest extent the importance that for archaeology and history the excavations which would be made at different levels and depths, should have. But I waited until the work approached the place where the largest temple of Tenoxtitlan stood to interfere, in a direct way, with the operations which the contractors and sub-contractors of this gigantic work ought to execute.

When the street of Santa Teresa was finished, and they were begining that of Escalerillas, I sent the following comunication (Doc. No. 1) to the Secretary of Justice and Public Education, from whom I depend as Inspector of archaeological monuments of the nation, asking him to authorize me so that I could officially defend the scientific interests, which according to my opinion, should be numerous, judging from the past grandeur of the spot where they were going to work. I say to defend the scientific interests because however hard the expresion, it is appropriate, since the treasures of inestimable value which must be discovered would fall into the possession of negociators who consider nothing more than their own pecuniary interest, travelling like the horse of Attila, destroying all that obstructs their way.

Soon the Supreme Government, appreciating the value of

the authorization I had asked, granted it to me in the following form (Doc. No. 2).

I should not fail to mention three names which history and universal archaeology should recognize as preservers of the immense quantity of treasures which were perfectly catalogued and placed in the national museum. These names are that of General Porfirio Díaz, President of the Republic, who determinedly supported this work; the, at that time, Minister of Justice and Public Education Hon. Joaquin Baranda, who mantained a veritable fight in order that the explorations should be carried out, and that of Hon. Ezequiel Chávez, Head of the Bureau of Higher and Professional Education, who has always distinguished himself in making every effort in connexion with his offices, to further the advance of archaeology.

In complying with my duty in this commission, I had to fight many contrary elements. The first was that of the drainage contractors, who as negociators, only attended to their own interests, and more than once in the length of time that I remained working in that place, from the director general of the sanitary works to the last employee on the contract, I was told that they attached no importance to such things; that the only thing which interested them was that the work should not be interrupted.

This struggle caused that the respectable Board of Directors of the sanitary works addressed a comunication to my chiefs, formulating terrible consequences if I continued there; because, they assured, the valuable property of Escalerillas street and even the cathedral itself were in imminent danger of destruction.

But the President of the Republic, with the calmness and good sense which characterize him, considering the courage and stedfastness Mr. Baranda had shown in carrying out such an enterprise, appointed the trustworthy engineer and architect Mr. Guillermo Heredia, to examine my works and express an opi-

nion concerning the danger in which, according to the Board, I was placing the property situated in that street.

Fortunately the technical report (Doc. No. 5) was favorable to the Inspection of monuments, and the First Magistrate of the Republic authorized me to prosecute the archaeological investigations. The fight continued as I advanced, not without having a new encounter every day with the interests attacked by the exploring pickaxe.

The second enemy whom I had to combat was the anoyance of the reporters, who, with the desire of filling their columns, clothed their articles with so much fantasy, and in this way did such a grave injustice to true history, that I was forced to instruct the police not to permit so many who pretended to represent newspapers of the capital city to approach the works. Of course, the result of this order, dictated in behalf of truth, was that some of those would be reporters went to certain daylies and adviced them of the horrors which the Inspector of monuments was committing. They assured to have seen with their own eyes the Inspector constructing towers and objects of gold, which he buried in order to make the public believe that they had belonged to the god of the infernal regions himself.

On the other hand, certain trustworthy publications, such as *El Imparcial*, *El Tiempo*, *El Correo Español*, and *El País*, tried in a correct way to give a faithful account of the truth.

The third enemy was the state of infection in which the soil was where the explorations were made, since besides the ditch being very narrow and nearly always at a depth of five metres, it was full of the decayed mud of the subsoil, the perpetual humidity of the filtrations, and the affluence of the sewers, besides the drainage waters from houses, hotels, and cheap restaurants on both sidewalks of the street, made that place truly terrifying for the timid. No word could be heard but typhus, to such an extent, that a learned doctor of medicine, etc., who had the courage to approach the borders of the cavernous canal for á few

moments, of course holding his nose, reproached me saying that he would leave all those things interred rather than expose the city to the disasters of a certain epidemic.

In a little compendium styled, «Excavations on the Site of the main Temple of Mexico,» published by Dr. Seller, in the tenth line of the first page it says: «Owing to these finds, the interest not only of scientific circles was aroused, but that of the entire city. This interest brought about a fortunate result, as the Mexican Government gave orders that the erudite and the employees alike should watch the works of canalization, in order to see that the laborers did not inadvertenly overlook the objects which they found, and that no single monument was lost.»

It may be readily seen that Mr. Seller wrote his work thousands of miles distant from the theatre of these operations, since he assures inexactitudes such as I have just transcribed. No, Doctor, no one but I and my son, Salvador Batres, remained in the drain taking care of scientific interests and directing the explorations, from September until the end of December; staying there, nearly always, from six or seven o'clock of the morning until eleven, twelve, and one o'clock at night, at times without taking any food, because if we abandoned for a moment our personal vigilance, we would have run the risk of losing perhaps forever the treasures we were trying to save.

The only ones who came to visit the works without thinking of the danger were Mr. Joaquín Baranda, in that time Minister of Justice and Public Education, with Mr. José Méndez Estrada; the Minister of the Interior, General González Cosío; General Jesús Lalanne and his son; General Clayton, Embassador of United States; Messrs. Antonio García Cubas, Ezequiel A. Chávez, Guillermo Heredia, Sánchez Santos, editor of *El País*, Eugenio Parrodi, and in the last days of the works Professor Marshall H. Saville; but the erudite and scientific societies, as Dr. Seller calls them, did not even approach that spot,

since, as learned men, they are prudent. They reserved the right of advancing science afterwards, and, without having even seen the monuments, to enlighten the world with their wise writings.

LEOPOLDO BATRES.

NOTA BENE.—The engineer Mr. Olivares, Inspector General of the Sanitary Works, has had the kindness to supply me with the terms relative to the technical observations of engineering, made by the office under his charge in the street of Escalerillas.

Document No. 1.

Since the beginning of the drainage works in the city, there has been found in different places archaeological objects of greater or less importance, which until today have been destroyed or sold by the workmen regardless of being the property of the nation.

As the work progresses in the direction of the Main Plaza, and it is known that in this place thousands of most important monuments belonging to the main *Teocalli* and to the *Coapalli* are buried, I call the attention of the Supreme Government to the fact that if it meets with its approval, to give me authority so that I would interfere in the works referred to, and recover the specimens which may be discovered, and send them to the National Museum.

With due respect for you.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, July 23, 1900.

Leopoldo Batres.

Mr. Secretary of Justice and Public Education.—Present.

Document No. 2.

Office of the Secretary of Justice and Public Education, Mexico. Bureau of Preparatory and Professional Education. No. 8956.

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 23d. inst., the

President of the Republic has been pleased to grant you the authority you asked for, to interfere in the works of the city drainage, with the view of recovering archaeological specimens that may be discovered, and sending them to the National Museum.

I cummunicate it to you.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, July 25, 1900.

BARANDA.

Mr. General Inspector and Preserver of Archaeological Monuments.—Present.

Document No. 3.

In reply to your estimed communication of yesterday, I take pleasure in saying that I have made a careful examination of the works that with the motive of archaeological explorations are going on in Escalerillas street, discovering in my investigations: That the work has been carried out with judgement and prudence, and that there is no imminent danger for the adjoining buildings.

That the region of explorations in the drainage trench has been limited to seven metres in longitud, having in consequence little importance.

Mr. Batres has very wisely strengthened the cramp-irons used by the sanitation company by means of woden cross-pieces and wedges, as he found those already there in bad condition.

I deem it prudent, in case that the explorations have to be continued much longer in this place, that solid wood be substi-

tuted for the timber at present in use, and that new cramp-irons be put, in order to duly arrest the weight of earth, avoiding all danger.

Which I take pleasure in comunicating to you.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, Nov. 7, 1900.

GUILLERMO DE HEREDIA,
Architectural Engineer.

I have the honor of sending to you a report relative to the archaeological explorations which, by the directions of your Department, were carried out in Escalerillas street during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1900.

Very respectfully.

Liberty and Constitution, Mexico, July 24, 1902.

LEOPOLDO BATRES.

Mr. Secretary of Justice and Public Education.—Present.

REPORT.

On the 31 of August, 1900, I commenced my visits of inspection to the sanitary works, beginning with the constructions discovered in Santa Teresa street, near Seminary street. One of the contracting engineers, Mr. Braulio Martínez, had the kindness to tell me that, besides the constructions that I saw in the levees, there had been discoverd a door, whose jambs were of well carved stone, but which was now covered with the walls of the collector trench.

Afterwards I went to the warehouse of the contractors, situated in the same street of Santa Teresa, and took possession of the objects discovered at this place, deposited there by these gentlemen.

List of Objects.

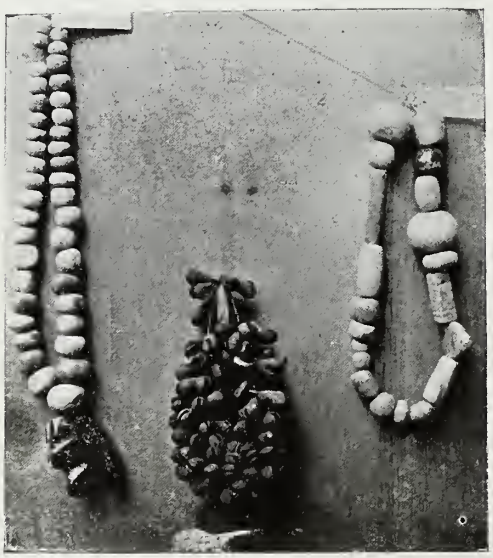
A stone idol in erect position was found, with the lower part broken, set upon a small base; it appeared to be whitewashed. Dimension, 1[m].[1]—A human skull sculptured in stone. Height, 0.23—A rough stone upon which was found sculptured a human face; measure, 0.36—Twenty-three earthen utensils, incense-pots, all broken. Most of them have the form of a tumbler. They rest upon three cylindrical feet. Different dimensions. Of some there were only fragments—A shapeless porous stone with fragments of mortar in some parts; measure, 0.57—A fragment of an ornament of clay like a halo; measure: 0.65 long; height, 0.215—A rectangular stone, engraved only on its rectangular sides; dimensions: 2.38 long, 1.10 broad, 0.23 high.

1 Measures are indicated in metres and decimals of metre.

No. 0.

Discoveries of September 4.

There appeared in Escalerillas street, in the direction of Seminary street, various constructions of masonry, the most notable being a staircase, two metres in width, formed of three steps; each step measures 0.22 height by 0.26 tread, coated over with cement of mortar of lime. This staircase was looking toward the west. Where the little staircase seemed to end, a slanting wall was discovered, following the same direction as the staircase. On discovering this, there were found sixty beads and thirty copper morrisbells—In the evening of the same day,



and at the foot of the staircase, was found a layer of 0.88 in thickness, formed of fragments of building materials of tezontle stone and mortar, very compact and resistent.

No. I.

Discoveries of September 6.

In order to continue the sanitary works, the layer of tezontle stone was broken, and under it was found an idol of green

stone, wihch measures 0.755 in height by 0.61 in diameter, one of the most interesting specimens which the National Museum possesses. Of this idol I sent a photographic copy to the Minister of Justice and Public Education (see first plate of Apendix).

This layer of debris was extended the entire length of Escalerillas street, reaching different depths below the level of the street.

No. II.

Discoveries of September 11.

The discovery of the staircase, commenced on the fourth of this month, was completed. It had nine steps, the first three included.



No. III.

At the foot of the last step of the staircase, appeared large flagstones, perfectly worked and united together. Each stone measured 4.30 in thickness.

No. IV.

Discoveries of September 28.

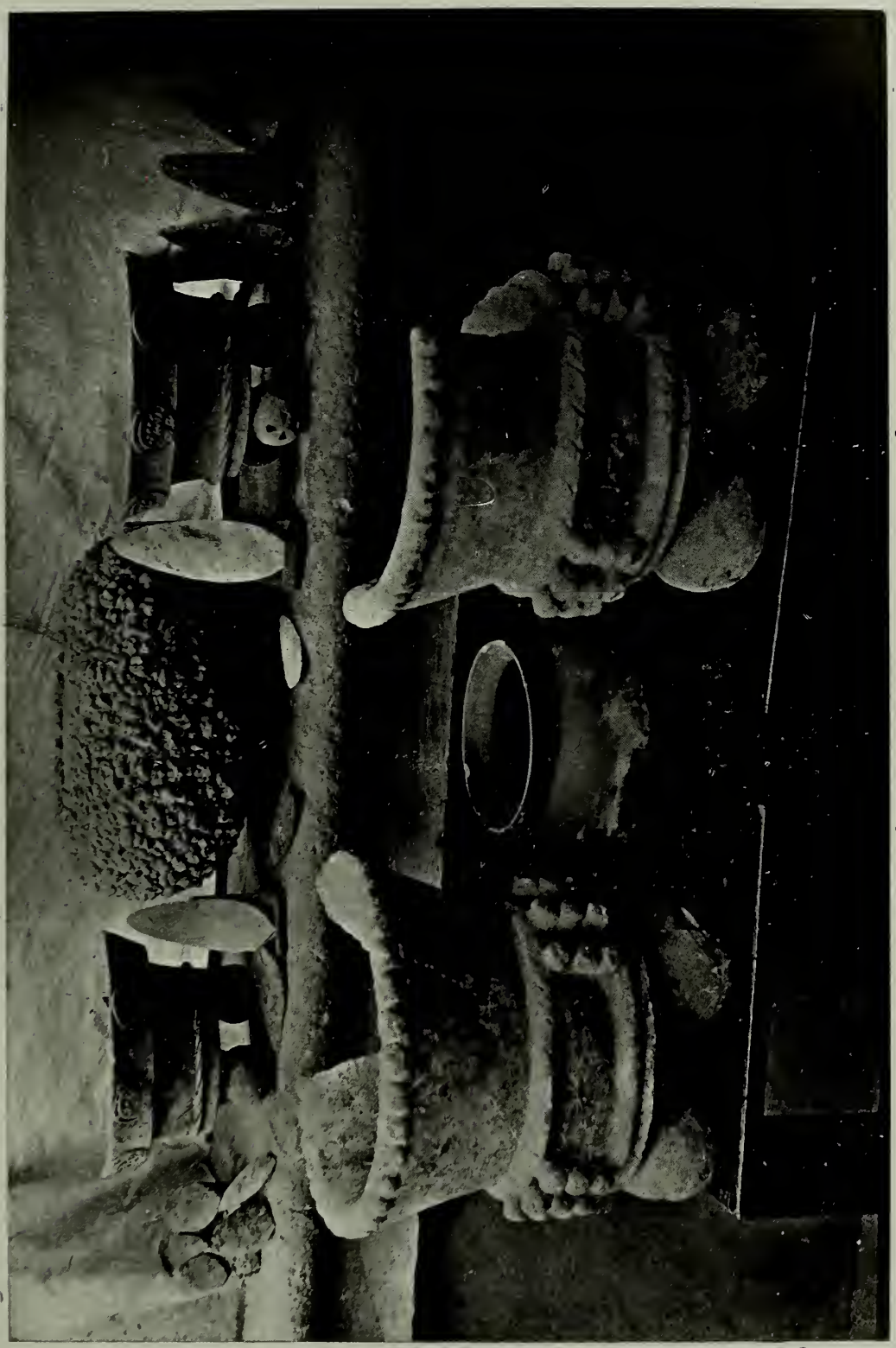
Four pots of clay—Fifteen earthen bowls—A clay urn without cover, in the shape of a hedgehog, painted red and yellow; measure, 0.22 in height, 0.49 in diameter—Forty knives of silex. —A sepulchre in rectangular form, composed of six flagstones— A broken brasier of clay, painted red; the feet are spherical, and the circumference is adorned with circular figures; height, 0.23; diameter, 0.325, lacking one foot—Another brasier, the same as the first, in good state of preservation—Two large brasiers, each one resting upon three spherical feet, with Maltese crosses of open work; they are painted white, and one with the lower border painted red on one of its sides only. The bowl of one of them is broken at the top; 0.45 in height, 0.42 in diameter— A cylindrical incense–pot of clay, with two feet, painted white, broken in different places; measure, 0.26 in height—Numerous human bones.

No. V.

Discoveries of October 28.

A little staircase composed of four steps, built of masonry, each step measuring 0.29 height, 0.22 tread.

At the foot of that staircase, always below the layer of te–



Discoveries of September 28.

zontle stone, was discovered the largest number of important objects which the excavations have produced, consisting of two tezontle stone statues representing the god Ehecatl (the god of the winds), measuring 0.55—A curious shell with the two articular pieces—Twenty-five snail-shells of different sizes, from 0.29 to 0.125, in very good state of preservation—Twenty-three shells of different dimensions and forms, one of them very beautiful. —Six fragments of same—A disk of wood, 0.13 in diameter —Fragments of a snake of stone, entirely smooth—Two little instruments of stone, of 0.47 to 0.35—A little skull of stone, very well modeled, measuring 0.04—One hundred and twelve flint knives of different sizes and colors—Two little heads of stone, finely carved—A fragment of human bone, very finely carved, measuring 0.07—Three pieces of obsidian; two are small knives with one of their extremities ending in a circular surface, and the other in an arrow point—Two pieces of shell, of parallelopipedic shape—Three pieces of polished stone, instruments for art—An uncarved stone, with a small perforation, 0.075 mean diameter—Two annular pieces, 0.067 in diameter—A perforated stone, decidedly conical in shape, 0.06 at the base, and 0.017 in height—Four stone disks, three carved on one of its sides, and the other with a circular perforation in the centre, 0.075 in diameter—Five pieces of fine stone—A necklace of twenty beads of fine stone, of an oblong form. Of these beads, one is parallelopipedic, and the others are in the shape of a jewel— A necklace of twenty-five pieces of fine stone, most of them beads—A necklace of forty-one beads of fine stone, and another piece of marbled stone representing the head of an animal —A necklace of fifty-five pieces of fine stone, most ot them beads—A necklace of forty-two beads of fine stone—A necklace of forty-one beads of fine stone—A necklace of sixty-seven beads of fine stone—A necklace of fifty-six beads of fine stone, also, and an amulet—A necklace of fifty-two beads of fine stone, and an amulet of the same material, representing a



Discoveries of October 10.

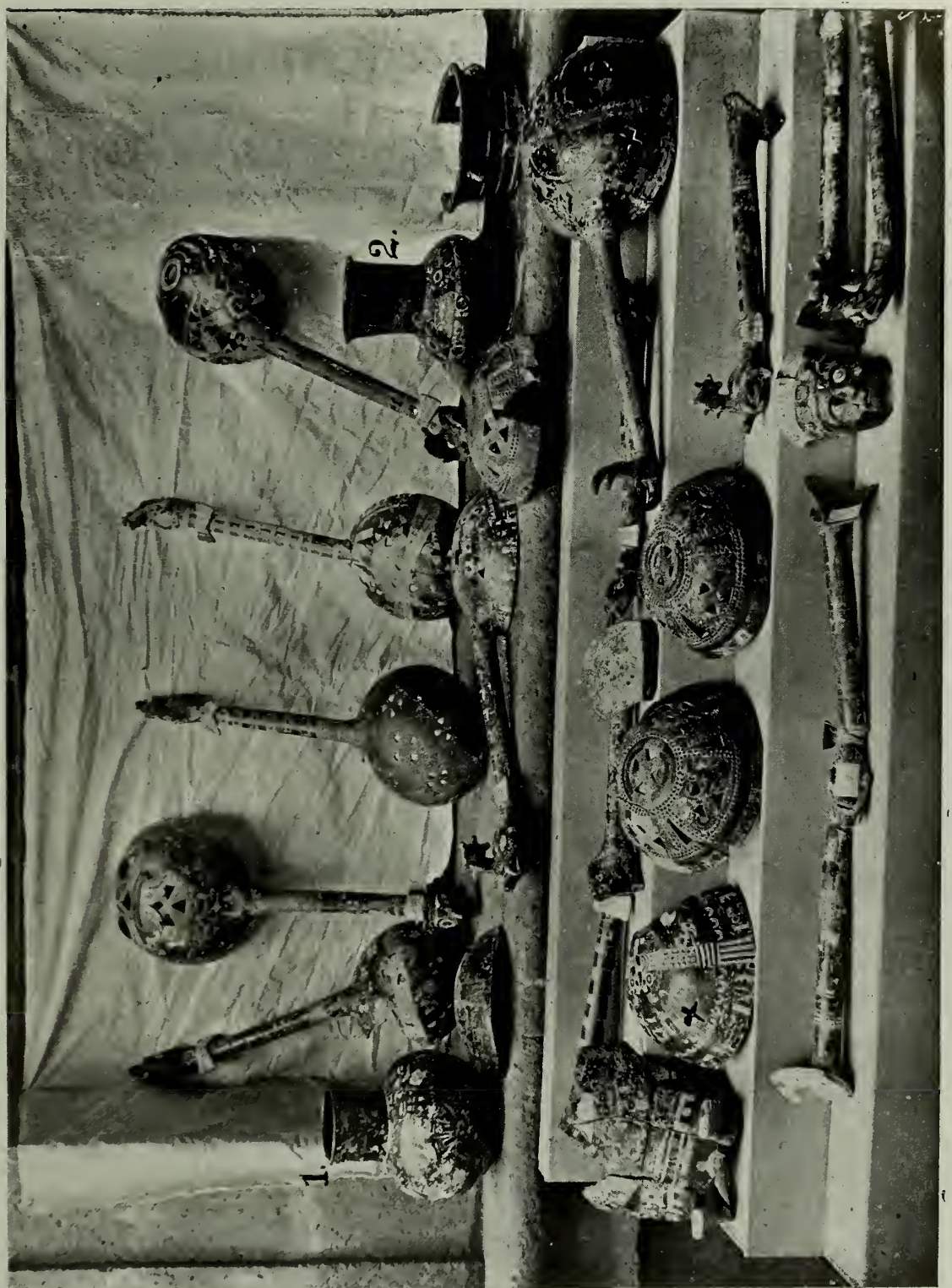
human head—A necklace of seventy–seven oblong and spherical, somewhat flattened, beads of fine stone—A necklace of little beads of mother of pearl—A piece of stone sensibly conical in shape, perforated, 0.035 in diameter, 0.02 in height—A piece of whitish stone, perforeted, 0.028 long.—Two strings of copper morris–bells—A small snail–shell string—Two strings of copper morris–bells—A small snail–shell string—A flint knife, remarkable for its unusual dimensions, since it is 0.615 long.—An object of clay, in the form of a disk, with ornaments in the shape of architectural roses on one of its faces, 0.063 in diameter—Two little instruments of stone, 0.047—A stone mask, polished, gray–green in color, with circular perforations, and one eye of sulphuret of copper, 0.18 high—A set of very small beads of mother of pearl, the largest measuring 0.004, and the smallest 0.002—A wooden instrument in the shape of a globe with an oblong addition—A rectangular slab, of a very porous stone, with a snake (crotalus) sculptured on one of its sides. On the snake's body, a series of circles in relief may be seen. The slab is 0.56 long, 0.555 broad—Three polychrome incense–pots of clay, formed of a vessel similar to a stewing–pan. One of these incense–pots has cross–shaped perforations; another cross–shaped and circular, and the other has them in different shapes. The handle of one of these incense–pots ends in a serpent's head. On the convex side of one of these pots is a kind of owl's head in open work and relief which, I believe, represents a Tlaloc. It measures 0.60 in length, 0.22 in diameter. Another of these incense–pots represents a Tlaloc; it measures 0.625 in height, 0.245 in diameter. The other incense–pot has only six cross–shaped perforations, and the handle ends in a talon. It measures 0.67 long 0.26 diameter. These three objects are very remarkable—Two polychrome pots of fine manufacture. One of them measures 0.25 in height (fig. 1), and the other 0.24 (fig. 2)—An incense–pot of polychrome clay, with open work in the shape of crosses. It is 0.23 in diameter; the handle ends in a serpent's



Polychrome Incense-pots Discovered in Escalerillas Street, City of Mexico.



Polychrome Vases Discovered in Escalerillas Street, City of Mexico.



Descoveries of October 16.

head, twisted at the upper part, where there is a whistle. It measures 0.41 in length—An incense–pot, broken at its border, similar to the preceding one, 0.226 in diameter—An incense–pot, also broken at the border, without a handle, similar to the last mentioned, 0.225 in diameter—An incense–pot in fragments, the same as those just mentioned. On the outside, this one has ornaments in relief, circular in form. Measure, 0.24 in diameter —Another incense–pot of polychrome clay, in fragments. Its open work is of a special cross–shape type—Another incense–pot of clay, in fragments, with cross–shaped open work, similar to that one with reliefs in circular form—Two other polychrome incense–pots in fragments, with open work in the shape of crosses. A lot of twenty handles of incense–pots, similar to those mentioned before — The neck of a polychrome vase—A fragment of a polychrome vase, representing a human body, with the head off.

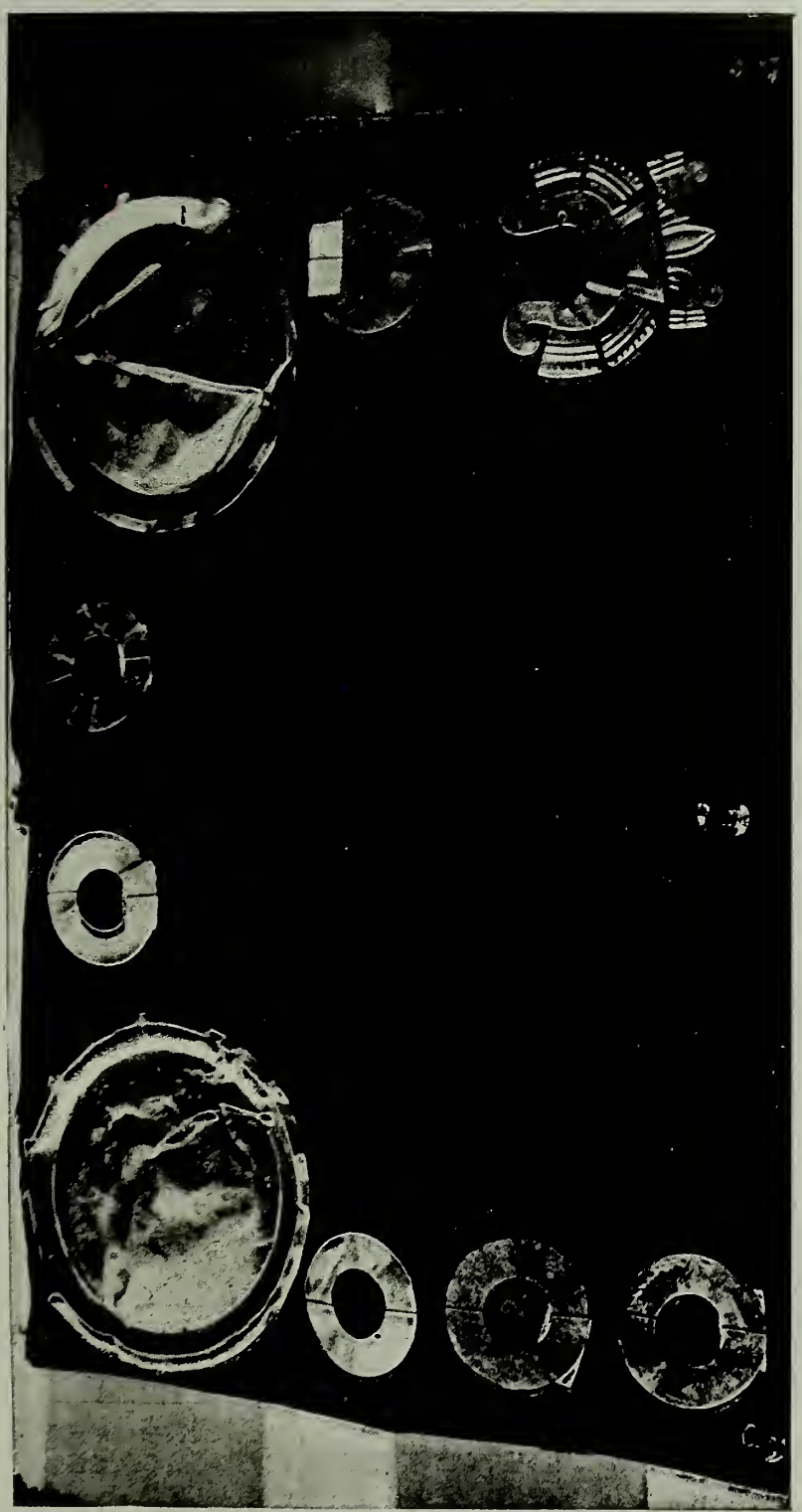


Plate F.—Codex Porfirio Diaz.

The hieroglyphics on the incense–pots, and the two statues of *Ehecatl* carved on them, here discovered, clearly indicate that here was the site of a Temple of the god of the winds, and that these incense–pots were used in the feast in honor of the sacred fire.

Two gold disks in the form of cymbals, with four perforations (fig. 1). One of them was found doubled, and afterwards we found out that some one had tried to steal it. They are 0.13 in diameter— Six annular smooth disks, also of gold (fig. 2), 0.05 in diameter— An ornament for the nose, representing a butterfly (fig. 3), 0.078 high, 0.075 broad.

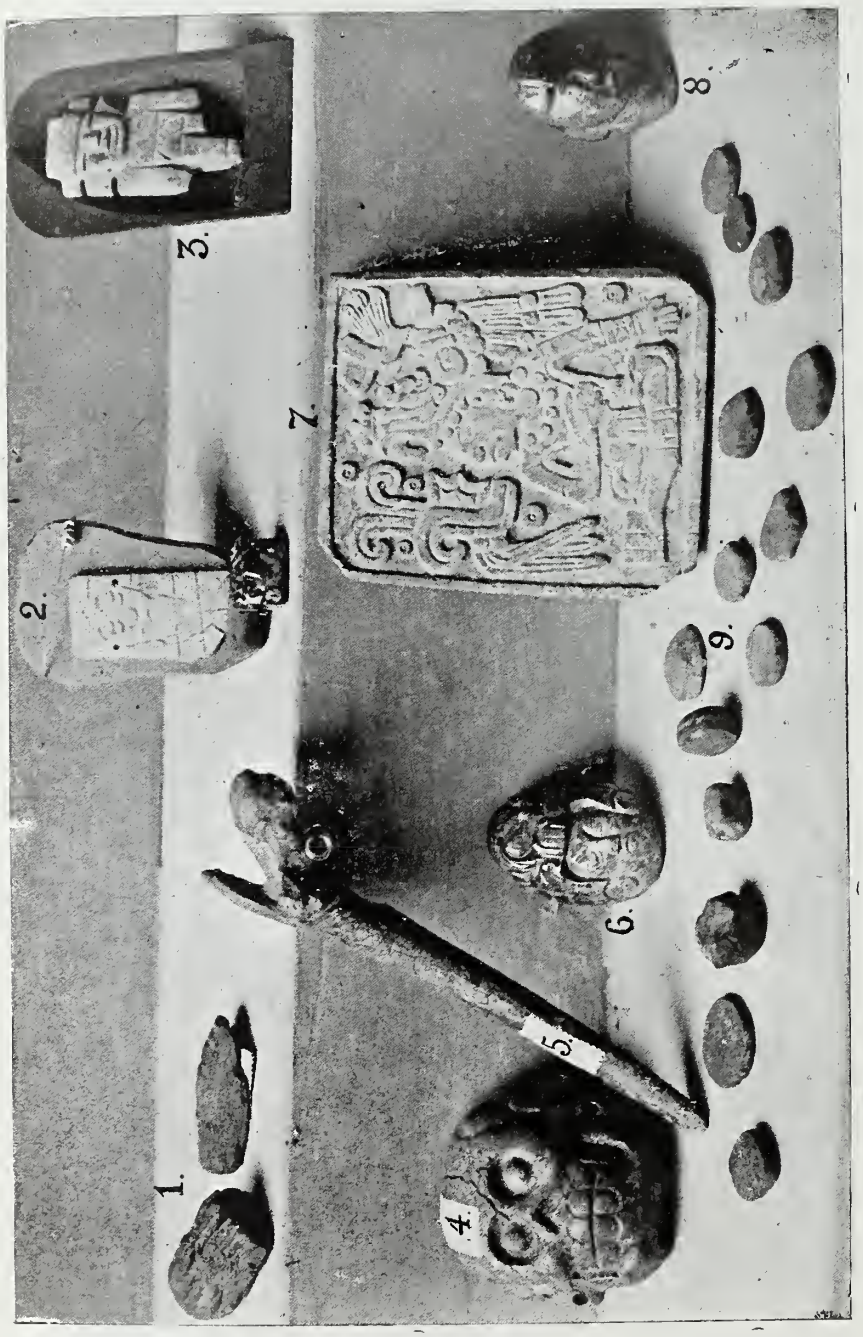
Plate F represents a figure taken from the Codex Porfirio Díaz. It may be seen in this figure, that about the lower lobule



Discoveries of October 16.

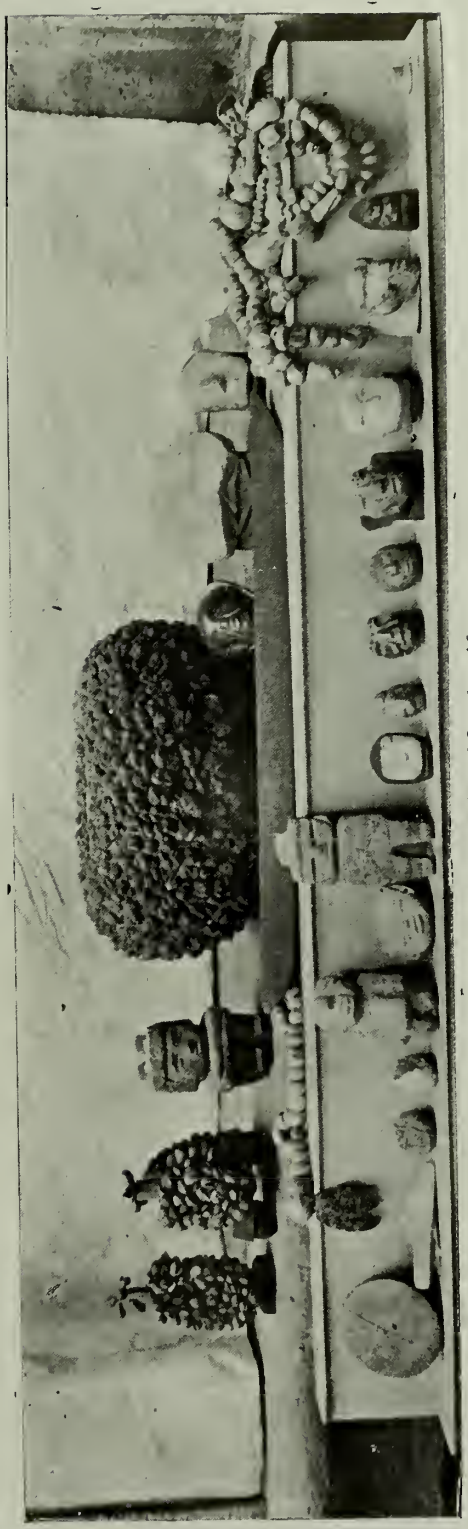
of the nose it has an attribute similar to fig. 3, No. V. This proves that the object of gold mentioned above had been worn as a nose–ring.

Two small wooden heads (fig. 1)—An idol, engraved on a green stone tablet (fig. 2)—An idol of gray soap stone (fig. 3). —A very curious skull of sulphuret of copper, showning at the back part how it was made (fig. 4). It measures 0.06—A



Descoveries of October 16.

shin–bone of a child, engraved near the higher end. The engraving represents a rabbit (fig. 5). It is 0.156 long—Two little heads of stone, very exquisitely worked. The first one has a very fine head–dress; both are perforated (figs. 6, 8). Measure, 0.05 and 0.045 respectively—A piece of stone, rectangular in



Discoveries of October 16.

form, with a relief that calls to mind those of Xochicalco. This relief represents a personage, seated with the legs crossed, a beautiful tuft on the head, and a symbol at the observer's left (fig. 7). It measures 0.108 in height, 0.09 in breadth.— A piece of green stone with very exquisite carving on one side, representing a tiger knight. It has a perforation accross the stone. It is 0.022 broad, 0.018 high, 0.008 thick.

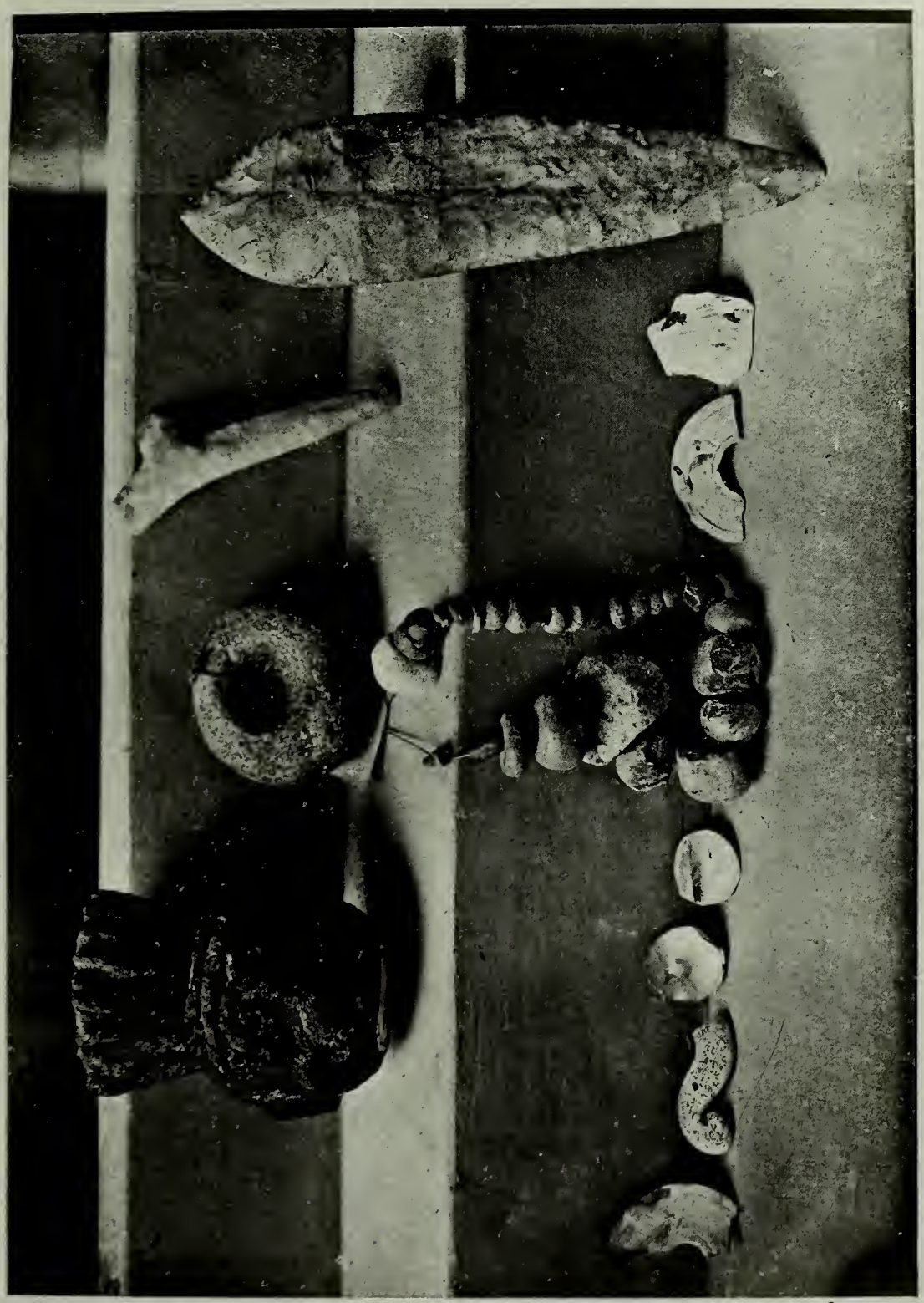
An earthen vessel of peculiar shape, having rugosities on its lateral surface, with its top cover. It measures 0.21 in height, 0.44 in diameter — An idol of porous stone, sitting in a cowering manner with the arms crossed resting uponthe knees. Thehead is ornamented with scollops of relief. It is 0.17 high— A broken disk of *tecali*, carved on both surfaces, 0.16 in diameter— A stone idol sensibly laminar; it is standing, with the hands on the breast. It is 0.182 high—A wooden instrument used for weaving, called in Aztec *tzatzopaztly*, a hard heavy wood called tepeguaje, which they employed for tighting the woven threads. It is 0.74 long — Three small masks, one of marble and two of stone. The one of marble measures 0.08, and the other two measure 0.075. All three are perforated — Several necklaces of stone — Two necklaces of copper jingle-bells — An earthen

disk which measures 0.10 in diameter—A stone idol which measures 0.14 in height — Eight small masks ot fine stone, one of which has a peculiar form, is perforated, and measures 0.14—An instrument of gray stone—A small head of stone representing a coyote. It measures 0.08 by 0.064—An idol of porous stone which represents a *tlaloc*. It is 0.12 high—A bead of porous stone, measuring 0.07—An instrument of flint of peculiar form, measuring 0.13 in length—A knife with white and red hieroglyphics, measuring 0.24—A necklace of stone beads—Six fragments of mother of pearl; two of circular form 0.025 in diameter, and four with carvings; one of the last mentioned has the shape of an ∽, and is perforated.

No. VI.

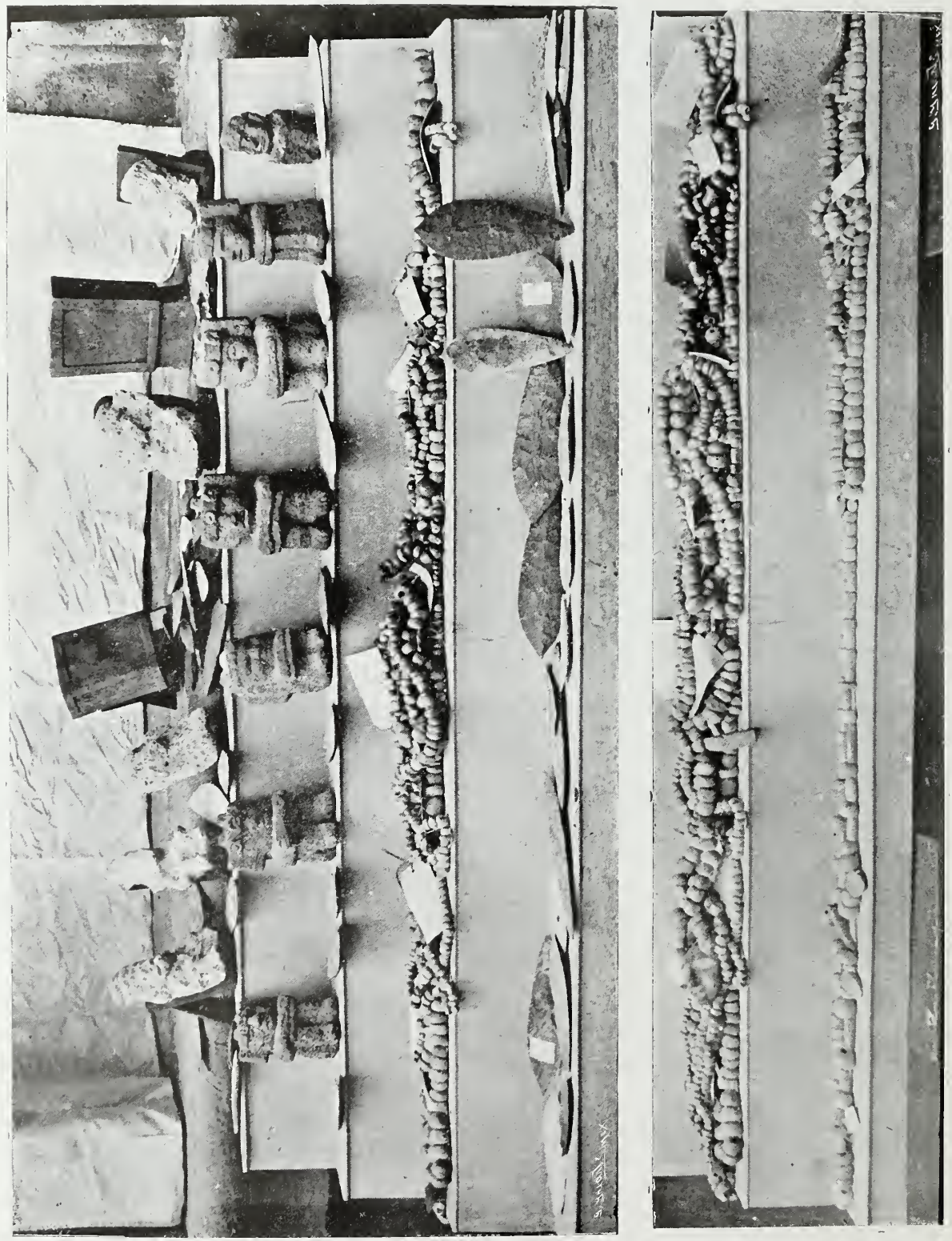
Discoveries of October 17.

A stone idol representing the «Sad Indian», sat squatting with the arms crossed and resting upor the knees—An idol's head of tezontle stone, representing Tlaloc, with a round hole on the top. It measures 0.11—Five little idols of *copal* (a resinous substance), sitting, with high head-dress. They measure: one, 0.19; two, 0.18; another, 0.176, and another 0.16—Another copal idol, very well modeled, sitting with the hands resting upon the knees, head-dress, and ear-rings. It measures 0.19—Two copal idol heads, fragments of larger idols than those just mentioned—A great number of fragments of copal—Some idols of green stone—Seven little stone heads; some of fine stone—Four little stone idols, measuring 0.045, 0.065, 0.09, 0.058 each, in height—Six small idols of tezontle stone, all sitting with the arms crossed and resting upon the knees. On the back of some of them is sculptured the figure of *Tecpatl;* they have a diadem of three points in front, and measure 0.14, 0.17, 0.175,



Discoveries of October 16.

0.165, 0.15, 0.16, 0.18 respectively—A necklace of four beads of green stone, and a little stone mask—A necklace of fifty beads



Discoveries of October 17.

of green stone and an amulet—Another necklace of thirty-eight beads of green stone and an amulet with a star engraved on it —A necklace of fifty-one beads of green stone, with a long

cylindrical object—A necklace of fifty beads of green stone and a black perforated amulet—Another with fifty–four round and cylindrical beads and a perforated circular stone—Another of eighty-one objects of different forms and kinds of stones—Another of eighty pieces of stone, most of them beads—Another of sixty pieces, similar to the one just mentioned—Another of eighty–four beads—Another with fifty-eight pieces, most of them beads—Another with one humdred and forty–three little pieces of stone—Another with seventy–three pieces of stone, most of them beads—Another with one hundred and seventeen pieces, the same as the preceding one—Another with sixty–four beads and a cylindrical object—Another with fifty beads, a little idol, and a small rectangular object—Two other necklaces, with ninety-two beads each—Another with ninety–one—Another with seventy beads and a perforated disk—Another with seventy–seven beads—Another with seventy–eight—Another with eighty-three—Another with fifty–four—Another with forty–nine—Two urns very well preserved, of a quadrangular form, with their respective top covers. These urns are 0.215 high, 0.13 broad—Several child skulls—Seventy silex knives.

No. VII.

Discoveries of October 18.

Thirty–two idols of polished stone, rudely worked—Many shells—Snail–shells and jaw–bones of quadrupeds, seemingly of tiger—Two flint knives, blood stained—An idol of basaltic stone, sitting with the arms crossed and resting upon the knees, with tusks sticking out of the mouth. It is 1.44 high—A basaltic stone, painted white, almost circular in form, broken, with reliefs on both surfaces. It measures 0.80 in diameter on the complete side, and 0.60 on the broken side—A long idol of

green stone, painted red, seemingly a woman, with the arms placed along the body. It measures 0.55 in heigh. It has two perforations.



Discoveries of October 18.

Sign *

Discoveries of October 20.

An idol of green stone 0.14 high, looking toward the north, inside of a niche made of five flagstones, each stone measuring 0.50 square. It was found inbeded in the south side wall of the trench. It seems that the figure is sitting—Two knives of silex. Near these was found a layer of hard mortar in the form of a vessel — Four long human bones, two painted black, one red, and another in its natural color—Several little masks of clay, and abundant copal resin.

No. VIII.

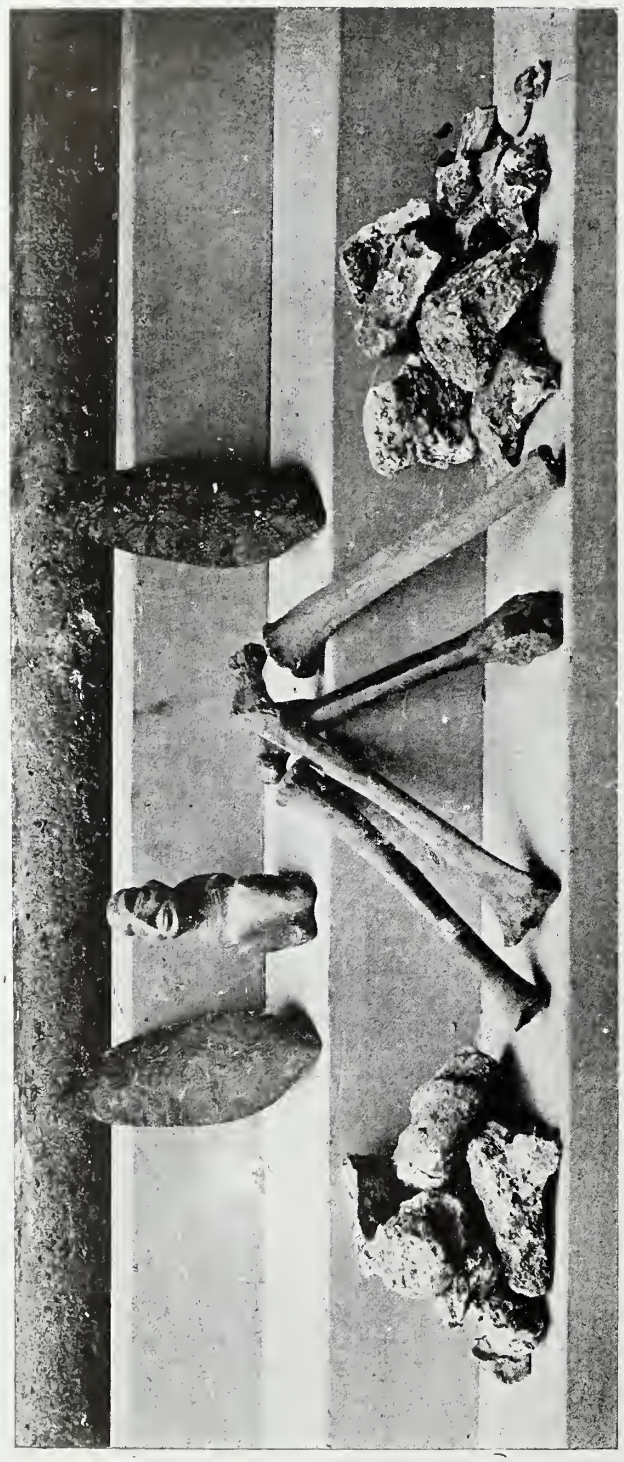
Discoveries of October 23.

A construction in the form of a tower, crowned by four denticulated turrets, built on the northern side. Each turret is 0.45 high, 0.32 broad, each dentil being 0.12 broad, 0.17 high. The crown was 6.05 in circumference, 1.90 in diameter, and 0.34 in depth. The turreted part was found under the wall of the trench. In the center of the circle formed by the crown was a hollow of rectangular form, the northern and southern sides measuring 0.84 each, and the eastern and western sides, 0.29 each.

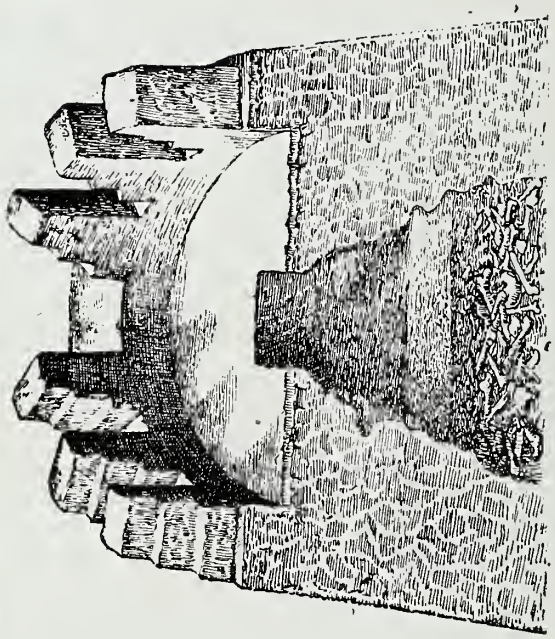
The drainage waters poured in torrents upon the crown of the tower, a circumstance which rendered impossible its exploration and made the use of a pump necessary. Duly authorized by that Department, I caused a centrifugal pump of ten horse-power to be installed by the Siemens & Halske Co.

Mr. Francisco Neugebauer informed me that he would go

to examine the place in order to see what was to be done; but asked me to tell the Department that the company would not charge anything for the use of the pump, for the installation of



Discoveries of October 20.



Discoveries of October 23.



Discoveries of October 20.

same, nor for power; that this would be the contribution of the company to the discovery of those important relics of antiquity.

No. IX.

Discoveries of October 26.

An idol of tezontle stone, representing the god Tlaloc, perfectly identified. It measures 0.20 — Eleven flint pieces. Each one has a sphere–shaped addition of copal resin of various dementions. Their average measure is 0.07.



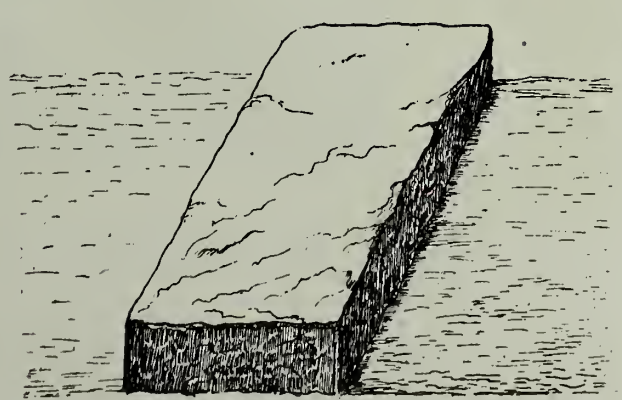
This discovery shows that the large knives of silex were not simply cutting instruments, but that they symbolized the devine flint, or the father of all the gods.

No. X.

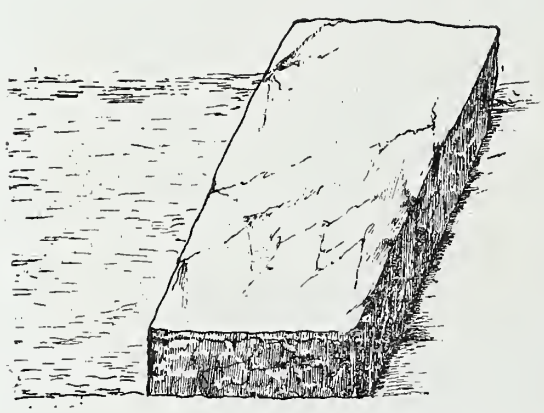
Discoveries of October 29.

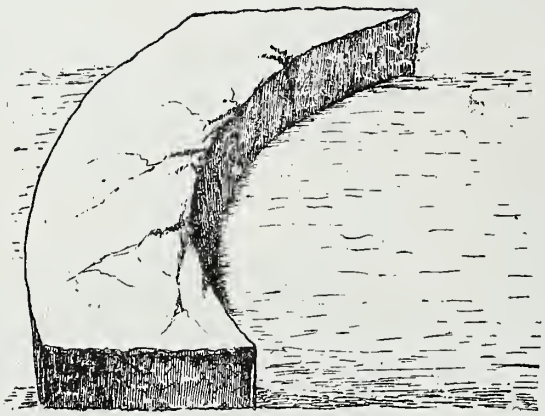
Three walls constructed of the same material as those of the tower, coated also with lime mortar. They are parallel from





north to south, and cross the trench. They measure 0.09 each. They are 1.30 from each other. At a distance of 1.53 from the first the last wall was discovered, which has the form of an arch. It is 0.80 thick.





In exploring the walls a large monkey's head was discovered, with open mouth, so well preserved, that every detail may be well seen.

Three peons had hid, wrapped in their *ayates*, several silex knives and other small objects. The peons, except one who fled, were taken to the proper authorities.

No. XI.

Discoveries of October 30.

One hundred and ten copper jingle–bells, perfectly finished—Sixteen large silex knives, and a great number of snail–shells.

No. XII.

Discoveries of October 13.

A piece of stone rectangular in form, worked on one side, measuring 0.30 high, 0.24 broad (fig. 1)—A rectangular stone

worked on one side, measuring 0.41 high, 0.41 broad (fig. 2) —A rectangular stone worked on one side, representing a kind of *tlaloc*. It is 0.315 broad, 0.28 high (fig. 3) — A rectangular stone 0.69 high and 0.38 broad, with a symbol sculptured



Discoveries of October 30.

on one side (fig. 4)—A stone representing a *tlaloc*, measuring 0.40 in height and 0.54 in breadth (fig. 5)—A rectangular stone



Discoveries of October 13.

with a symbol sculptured on it; it is 0.60 high 0.30 broad (fig. 6 —A quadrangular stone measuring 0.50 by 0.40 (fig. 7).

On the morning of November 16, one of the peons of the contractors, obeying the instructions of an Italian foreman, Sal-

vatori, as he confessed later, made a lage hole fifty centimtres below the crown of the tower. The object of this was to fill the monument with the drain waters in order to render further exploration impossible, since the capacity of the pump in operation was not sufficient to draw out the profuse stream from the drainage. The peon and Salvatori were taken to the proper authorities for investigation of the facts, in order that the guilty one should be punished.

At the same time, I placed a provisional coffer–dam to stop the waters, an operation which enabled me to continue the explorations.

I strengthened the tower with timber, in order to protect the laborers, as I saw that it had commenced to crack.

No. XIII.

Discoveries of November 4.

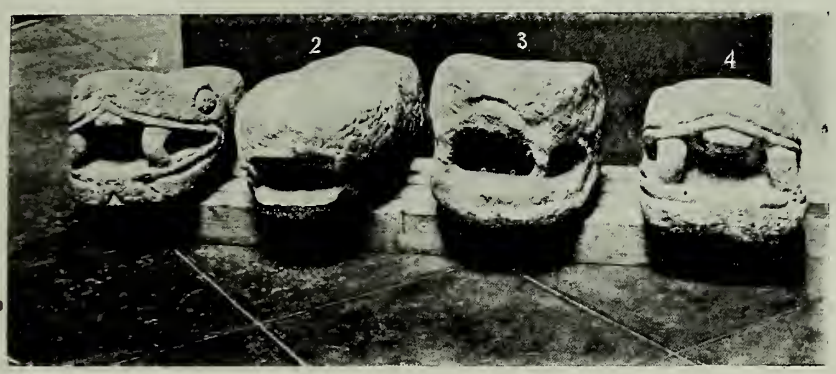
A basaltic stone representing a serpent's head, measuring 0.85 in length by 0.50 in breadth (fig. 1).

After the stone had been very carefully taken out in order to prevent deterioration, the excavation was deepened more. There were found eight silex knives, smaller than, and of different shapes from, those found in previous days — Six snail–shells, cut and perforated where the spiral end — Pottery and human remains were also found, all of which was duly put in order.

At five o'clock, the installation of the electric pump was finished and immediately commenced to operate with such success that in a short while the trench was almost dry.

On the 31, the water inside the turreted tower was pumped out, and the exploration the interior was begun. After the mud had been removed we found a small mortar coating, which

was examined. Nothing of interest was found in the coating, so it was destroyed in order to continue the exploration. There was found a great deal of charcoal dust in the center of a small sitting idol which was painted red. It is 0.13 high — Two ob-



sidian knives, and many fragments of skulls and other human bones—There was also found a small stone with a circular hole in the center.

No. XIV.

Discoveries of November 6.

Two stones of porphyry which represent two snake heads, same as the previous ones. They measure 0.85 in length and 0.17 in height. See figs. 2 and 3 of plate XIII.

No. XV.

Discoveries of November 8.

Two stones of basalt which measure 0.17 in height and 0.85 in length (see fig. 4 of plate XIII., and fig. 5 of this plate). They represent snake heads like the ones mentioned before, but these have the mouth less opened and show their four fangs. Also the form of the upper part of the head differs from the others.



At five o'clock I suspended all work on the exploration of the tower, because we struck a very mudy and brittle earth, which offered imminent danger of falling in. Before suspendig the work I took moulds of the turrets and of the crown of the tower.

No. XVI.

Discoveries of November 9.

A bit of ground paved with large flagstones. Under it one hundred copper jingle–bells were found––A flint knife 0.30 long ––A small pot of clay of a yellow redish color, and numerous broken pottery of the same style. With these objects great many bones were found, which seem to be of carnivorous animals ––A fine amulet of jade, artistically polished and sculptured. It has the form of a human head with the head–dress of the tiger knight (Ocelotl) ––A log two metres long –– Twenty fragments of poly–chrome pottery––A small pot containing a snail–shell. It is 0.08 high––A fragment of an earthen disk, polychrome on one side, with two circular perforations –– An object of tezontle stone, of

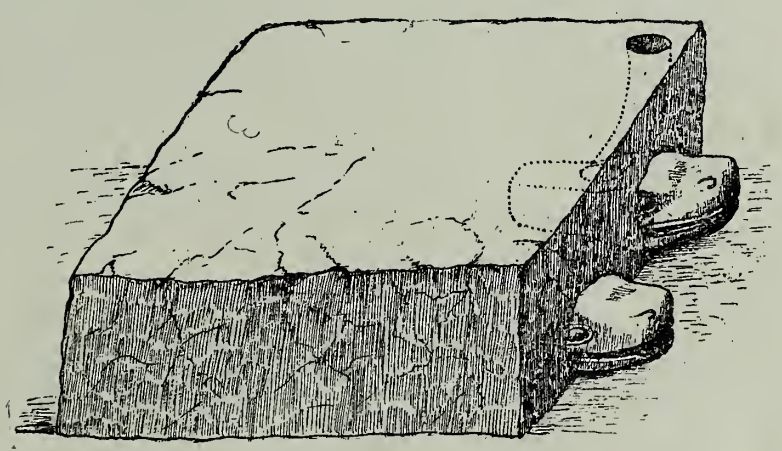


an annular form, measuring 0.325––Nine objects of stone, conical in form, instruments for the arts.

No. XVII.

Discoveries of November 9.

A platform of masonry coated with mortar. In its lower part the ground had two snake heads imbeded in it, painted yellow, very similar to those already described, but much better sculptured (figs. 6, 7). The first snake head was discovered 0.90 from the southern side of the trench, and the other at a distance of 1.09 north of the first one. On the upper part of the platform, on the north–eastern side of the trench, is a hole 0.19 in diameter and 0.30 in depth, running down until it reaches one of the snake heads, with which it communicates.



No. XVIII.

Discoveries of November 20.

A construction in the form of a dice, with its sides covered with human skulls and crossed thigh–bones, sculptured in high relief. In the joints ot the stone blocks it may still be seen remains of the paint which once covered the skulls, a white coating and a light green paint.

On the upper and lower parts, all around, is sculptured a rope, indicating that the construction was tied. On the eastern side a smaller construction was found, resting upon the large construction. This smaller construction, similar in form to the large one, which seems to be an altar, is also covered with human skulls sculptured on the small blocks of tezontle stone. In the center of the smaller construction is incrustated a skull of stone.

This monument, up to the edge of the surface already discovered, measures 1.335 The surface is covered with mortar of lime, with figures painted red and black, representing skulls and bones. The state of preservation both of the painted and the sculptured figures, is very remarkable. The whole construction is made of tezontle stone.

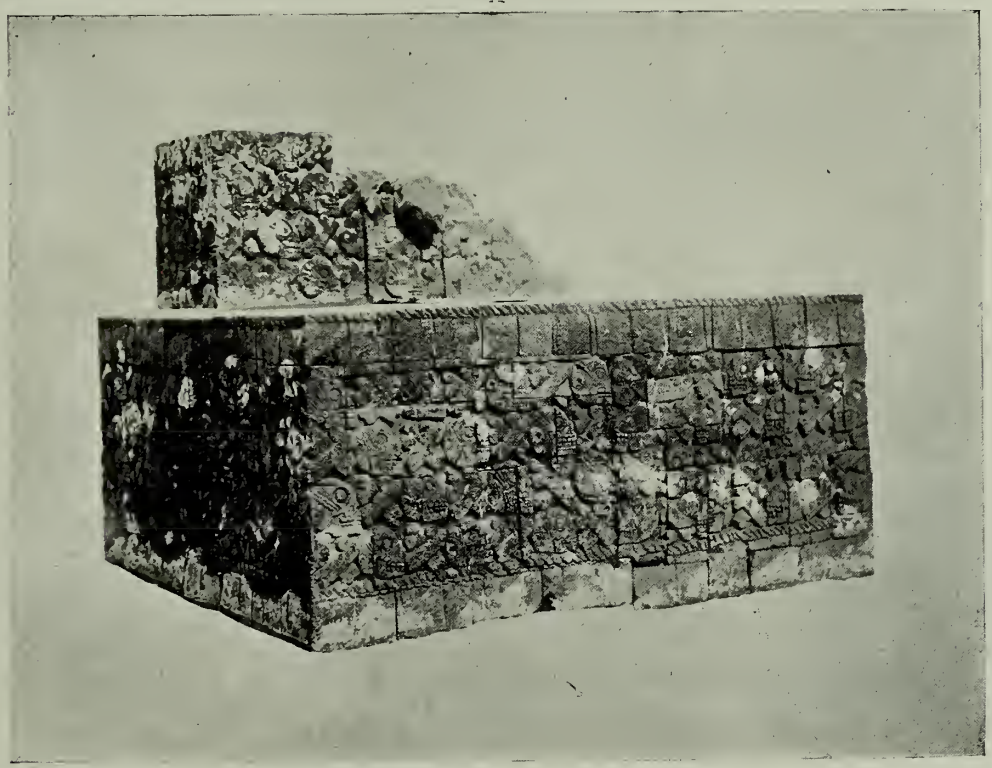
Near this monument were found three steps 0.22 of tread and 0.20 in height each step.

On the 21 I had timbered the excavation made on the previous day, in order to finish the exploration of the monument. When the whole monument was discovered, I had a photographic view of it taken. Its final measures are: height, 1.45; pedestal, 0.885; length, 2.44 and the pedestal, 2.96; width 1.96 by 1.75.

This whole construction was moved to the National Museum. The work of removal was a hard and delicate one. As the monument was built of small blocks of stone, and its upper surface was coated with a very fine cement of mortar on which skulls and bones were painted in green and blue colors, and the whole monument had to be taken out of its foundations, there was great danger of being broken into pieces.

On the 22 two flights of steps were discovered on the sides of the basement upon which the altar of the skulls is built. Each section of the staircase was composed of two steps, the lower one being 0.24 in height and 0.21 of tread, and the upper one 0.19 of tread and 0.21 in height. The staircase ran toward the west, and gave access to the large wall surrounding the altar

on the northern and southern sides. Fortune and the courage and skill of my laborers helped me, all danger was averted, and the complete monument was taken away without suffering



Northern and Western Sides of the Altar.



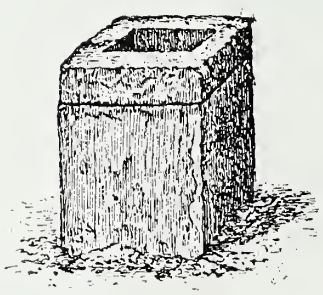
Eastern and Southern Sides of the Altar.

in the least. Now our archaeology possesses a genuine specimen of the prehistoric architecture of the city of Mexico.

Through a crack found on the upper plane of the altar, I could see that another monument was constructed inside. I made an opening and discovered two *Xiumolpilli,* some knives of silex, and several ornaments of mother of pearl. I made the opening larger, and today the monument constructed inside may be seen.

No. XIX.

Discovery of November 23.



A rectangular stone, with a rectangular hollow made in the center. It measures 1[m] in height, 0.71 in width, 0.67 in depth.

No. XX.

Discovery of November 25.

In the same place, an earthen broken brasier of a cylindrical form was found. It has a stripe around the upper part, and another near the base, close to a double line of small circles in relief.

On the lateral exterior surface it has attached a kind of crest of clay. The brasier measures 0.755 in height, 0.65 in diameter.



No. XXI.

Discovery of November 25.

A brasier identical to the one just described, broken in pieces.

No. XXII.

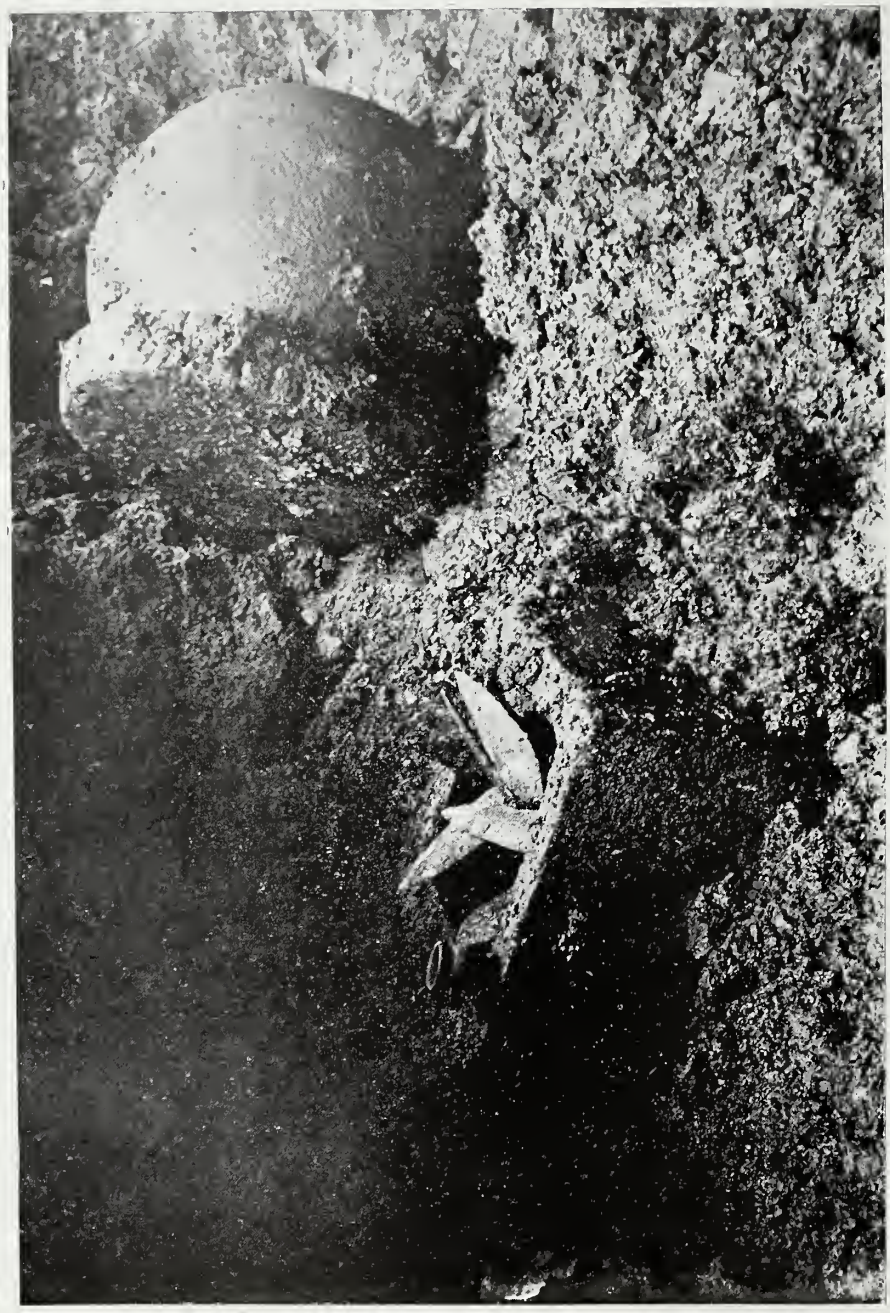
Discoveries of November 28.

An urn, incrustated in the wall of the trench. It is a box of tezontle stone, perfectly wrought. It is 0.46 long, 0.46 broad, 0.42 high, the walls being 0.05 thick. The top cover is formed by a flagstone, upon which is a large sphere of porphyry, supported by a small circular fluted base. The sphere measures 0.75 in diameter; from the base, 0.58, and 0.75 in thickness —Three conical pieces of tezontle stone, in the form of a spike, painted white on one of their ends. Each measures 0.25 by 0.14 — Within the urn, sixteen silex knives of different sizes were found—Several human bones—Fifty beads of jade—A small pot of clay, supported by three feet with two handles of peculiar form. It is 0.07 high, 0.056 in diameter at the mouth.

No. XXIII.

Discovery of November 29.

Three spheres of porphyry, perfectly made; two of these are painted, one blue and the other red. Each has a diameter of 0.15.



Discoveries of November 28.—Urn, Silex Nives, and Spherical Top Cover.

No. XXIV.

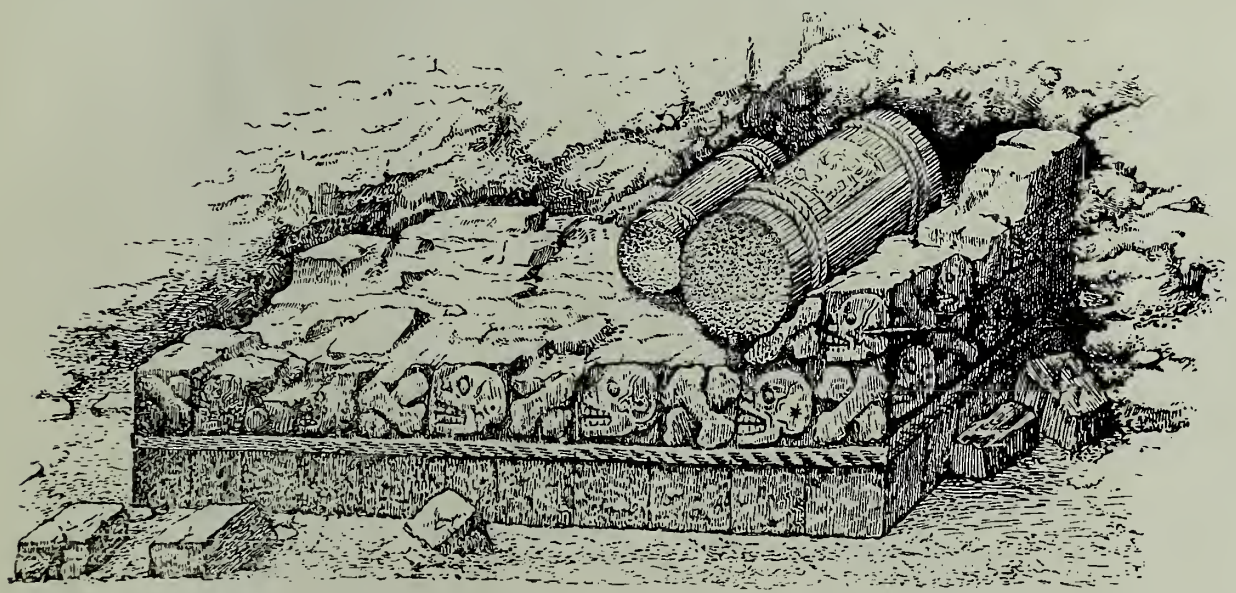
Discoveries of November 29.

Twenty–two knives of silex, and two more spheres of porphyry, measuring 0.15 and 0.14 in diameter respectively—Three small copal resin idols (See No. XXIII.).

No. XXV.

Discoveries of December 7.

Another skull monument, in ruins, of which there remains only the lower part and the nucleus, consisting of two cylinders of stone. One measures 0.65 in length and 0.33 in diame-



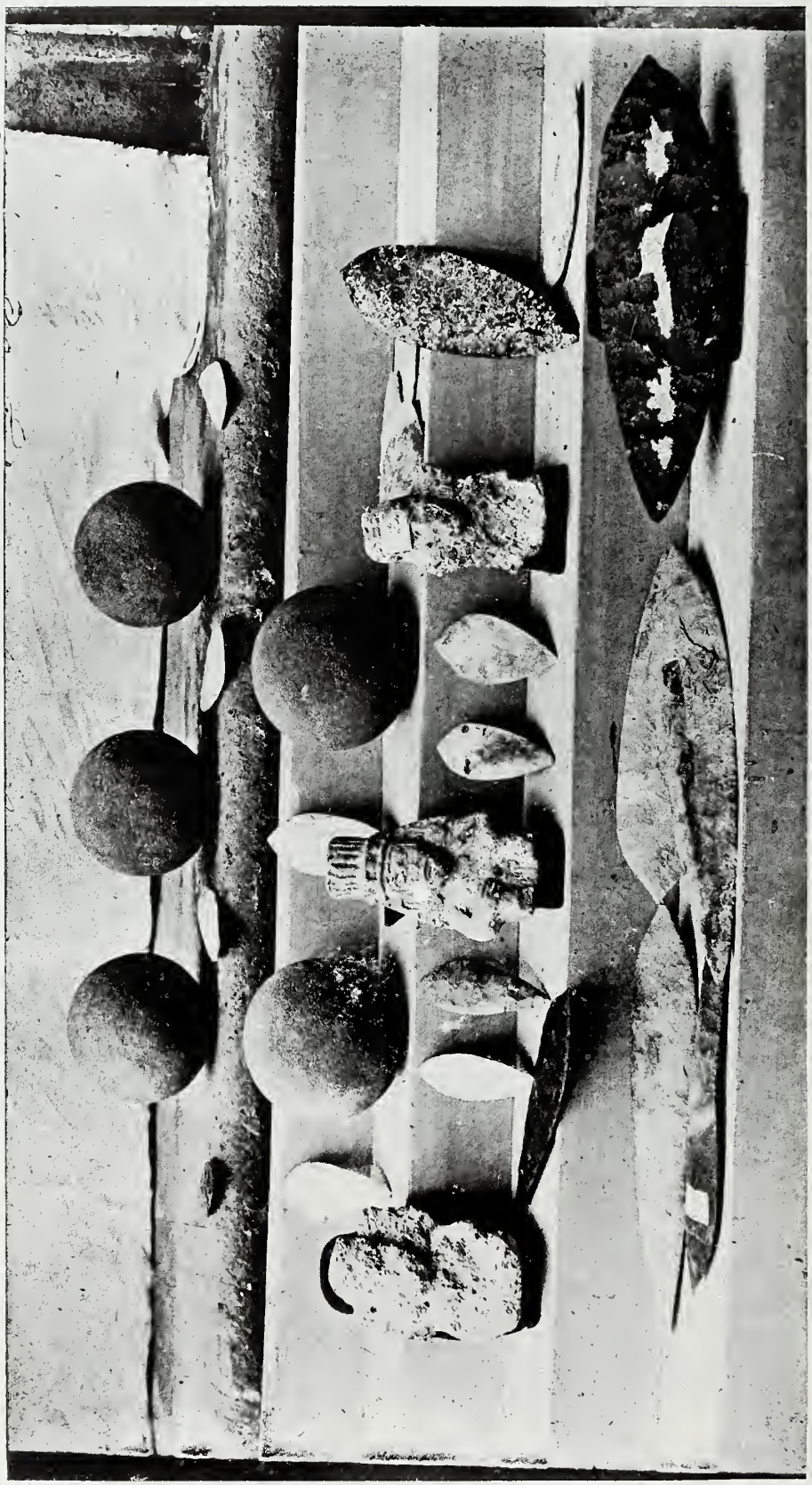
ter, having the symbol *Miquiztli*. The other is 0.46 in length and 0.22 in diameter at its base. Each cylinder represents *Xiuhmolpilli*, or tie of years. The smaller one is painted blue and yellow.

Today I began to prepare my work for removing the monument of tezontle stone called altar.

No. XXVI.

Discoveries of December 9.

There were blocks of stone belonging to the monument in ruins, and another altar similar to the ones mentioned before. This was left incrustated in the northern wall of the trench.

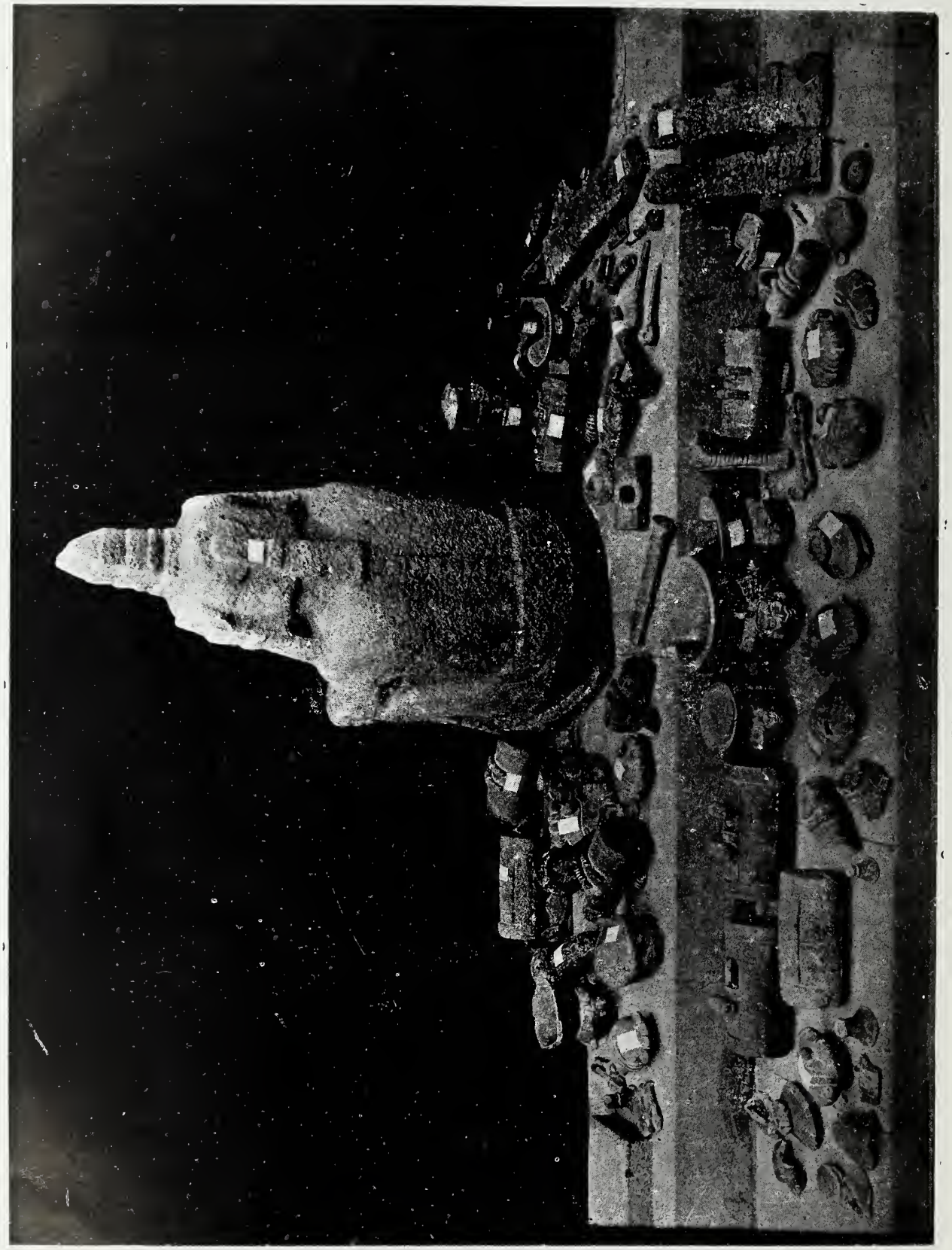


Discoveries of November 29.

No. XXVII.

Discoveries of December 13.

An idol of porphyry, painted red. The idol is in a sitting position, having on the breast a shield with a kind of circular coat—Four pots of clay, resting upon a circular base. Each has modeled a human head on one side and also two handles—Two cylindrical pieces of clay, which seem to be *teponaxtles* with their reeds or tongues. At one end of each of them, there is also a cylindrical piece of clay, and at the other end each one has a circular hole. Length, 0.20; diameter, 0.10—Seven pieces, similar to the preceding ones, but resting upon a fluted circular base. Length, 0.155 and 0.12; diameter, 0.08 and 0.45—Five objects of clay, of regular form. On the obverse of each are engraved several stripes, and have attached an apendix of spherical shape. On the edges they have four ornaments in front of each other, representing the hieroglyphic *Tenoch*. On the back surface is a circular perforation with an edge arround in the form of a cord. They are 0.11 in length—Two objects similar to the first five mentioned, but instead of four, these have only two ornaments. They are 0.12 long—A flute of clay, 0.22 long—Two broken rattles of clay in the shape of egg beaters. They are composed of a cylindrical handle and a pomgranate shaped box at one end. They measure 0.13 and 0.12 respectively—Six fragments of rattles, similar to the preceding ones—An object of clay, representing a human fluted thigh-bone, 0.16 long—A set of three objects of clay, similar to the one just mentioned, both broken in two fragments—Three fragments of objets like the preceding ones—A set of twenty-four different fragments—A turtle of clay, made of two pieces. On the upper part is a circular piece resembling a twisted cord. It is 0.12—A set of twenty-four different fragments of turtle like the one



Discoveries of December 13.

just described—Two pieces of tezontle stone, resembling *teponaxtles* of clay, but without the circular reeds or tongues. They are 0.185 long each—Two long engraved pieces of tezontle stone, measuring 0.35 and 0.29 respectively. They represent quivers. —Three pieces of tezontle stone composed of a long handle and a kind of globe attached at one end. They are 0.18 and 0.17 respectively—A turtle of redish stone, 0.15 long and 0.07 high — An instrument of tezontle stone 0.31 long—A *teponaxtle*, with its reeds only engraved, 0.19 long—A *teponaxtle*, identical to the preceding one, with circular perforations on the lower part. It is 0.17 long—A pot of clay with a human head sculptured on its surface. Height, 0.11; diameter at the mouth of the pot, 0.11—Two objects of clay, similar to those already described—An object of clay, which seems to be a quiver, 0.225 long—A rattle of clay, the shape of its box being that of a poppy–fruit. The rattle has the form of an egg–beater. It measures 0.145 in length—A human thigh–bone of clay, with parallel flutings carved on it. It is 0.145 long.



Front View
of the Red Idol Described above.

All these objects are painted with vermilion red. Judging by the fact that these objects are musical instruments, it is rational to believe that the deity mentioned at the beginning of this No. was the Euterpe of the ancient Mexicans.

APPENDIX

Discovery of September 6.

Miquiztli—Death. This is a statue of green stone, 0.75 high and 0.65 in diameter.



This monument, although mutilated at several places, has its hieroglyphs preserved well enough to show us what it undoubtedly represents.

The face of the idol is characterized by the front part of a human skull resting upon the vertex of the truncated cone which

forms the body of the deity. On the surface of the skull there are sculptured in high-relief, hieroglyphics that usually accompany this goddess in the different *trecenas,* or terms of thirteen days, of the *Tonalamatl.*

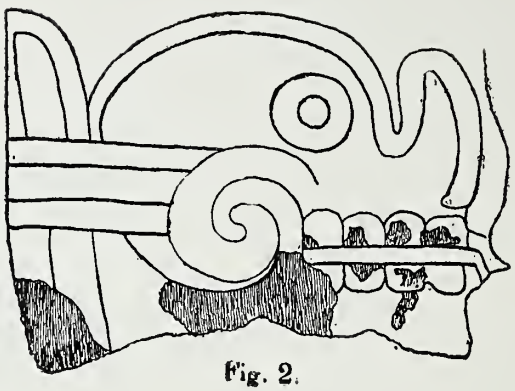


Fig. 2.

The hieroglyphics referred to are on the lateral sides of the body, on the top of the skull, on the fringe of the robe, on the flat surface of the idol, and on both sides of the skull, at the parietal regions.

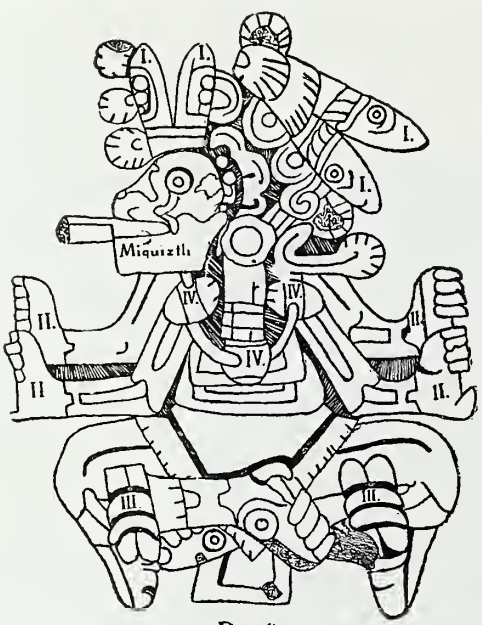


Fig. 3.

I. I. mark two of the four hands that fall from the neck at the sides of the body. In my conception, they represent four *macuillis*, which simbolizé the number 20, which is the last day in the figure *Miquiztli* in the calendar of the *Tonalamatl.*



Fig. 4.

Fig. 2 represents one of the skulls that form the fringe of the goddess's robe, and means *Miquiztli* with *Miquizlli* in the seventh *trecena.*

Fig. 3 represents one of the hieroglyphics on the lateral side of the skull, and means *Miquiztli* accompanied by *Tecpatl* (flint) in the tenth *trecena* (No. I.).

II. marks the four paws of *Ocelotl* (tiger), acompanied by *Miquiztli* in the second and fifteenth *trecenas*. III. marks the hieroglyphic of *Centeotl*, companion of *Miquiztli* in the thirteenth *trecena*. IV. marks the principal hieroglyphic of *Tepeyolotl* (heart of the mountains), companion of *Miquiztli* in the second and sixteenth *trecenas*.

Fig. 4 represents *Xochitl* (flower), which accompanies *Miquiztli* in the nineteenth *trecena*. This hieroglyphic is situated on the upper and back parts of the skull, ending on the back of the idol.

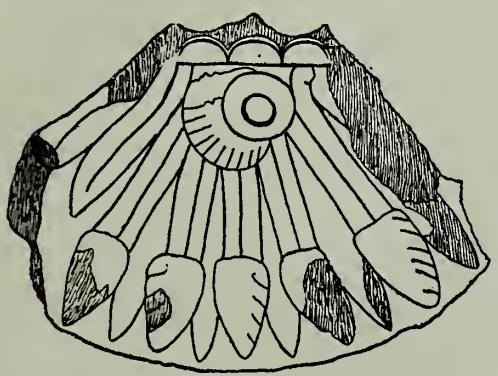


Fig. 5.

Fig. 5 represents *Atl* (water), which accompanies *Miquiztli* in the first and fifteenth *trecenas*. It is placed on the frontal joint of the skull.

Fig. 6 represents *Xiuhtecutli-tell* (god of the Fire), companion of *Miquiztli* in the fourth and eighteenth *trecenas* (I.), and *Xiuhtecutli* accompanying *Tochtli* (rabbit) in the sixteenth *trecena*. Besides accompanying *Tochtli* in this *trecena*, *Tochtli* IV. with fig. 1 *(ce-tochtli)*, as it is sculptured on the head of *Tetl*, signifies the date in which the festivity of the fire was held at the conclusion of the century, *Xiuhtecutli-tetl* with *Ollin* in the third, sixth, and twentieth *trecenas*.



Fig. 6.

This statue has on it, written in hieroglyphics, every one of the days dedicated to its festivities in the ritual calendar.

Great Temple of the City of Mexico.

Lines showing the extension of the Great Temple of Mexico, and the position of the two chapels, one dedicated to Huitzilopochtli and the other to Tlaloc.

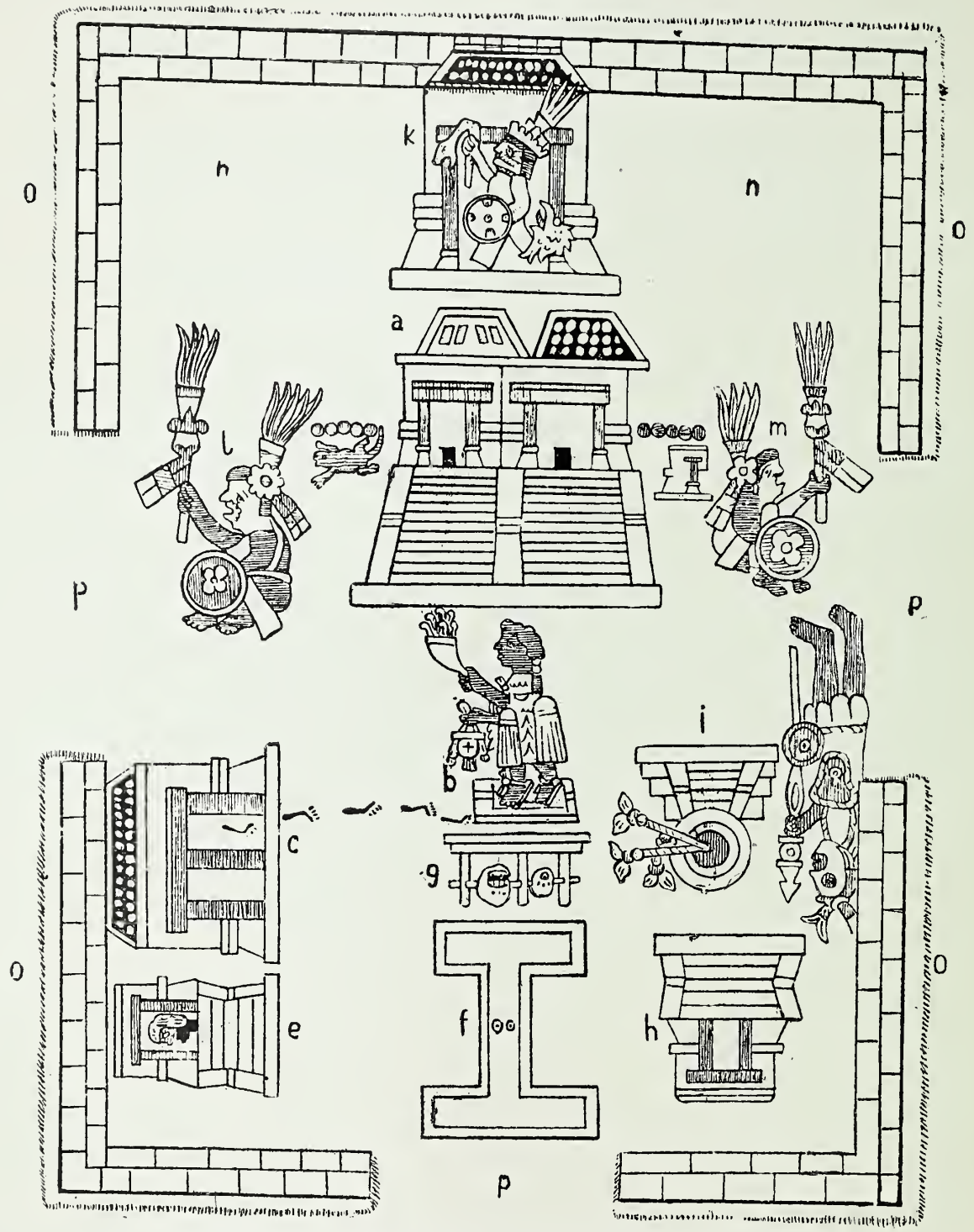
Trace of Escalerillas street, where the descoveries were made.

Coateocalli, temple situated at the north–east corner of the Coapantli, discovered by Captain of Engineers Porfirio Díaz during the works of rebuilding the house No. 8 Reloj and Cordobanes streets.

No. 1 marks the place where the precious tiger, which I caused to be taken to the National Museum, was discovered. No. 2 marks the place where the great serpent head of stone was found, which also was taken to the National Museum. In 1892 I located this temple in the plan which I made by the directions of the Geographical an Statistical Society, under the title «Esay on the Reconstruction of the Ancient City of Tenoxtitlan,» as it was in the year 1521 A. D., since it was undoubtedly located by the descovery made by Mr. Porfirio Díaz. Jr.

The city of Mexico at the coming of the Spaniards must have been 3.20 below the present level. This is shown by the depth at which the four flagstones which formed part of the court of the area occupied by the great Temple and the subordinate edifices within the enclosure of the serpents were found. This court corresponds to the last step of the Coateocalli.

Nota Bene.—I have not marked the five bodies or stories of the basement of the great teocalli, on account of the small projection of the illustration.



PLAN OF THE GREAT TEMPLE OF MEXICO AND SUBORDINATE BUILDINGS.

(Sahagun—MS. in the Library of the Royal Palace of Madrid.)

Published by Dr. Seller in his study entitled «*The Excavations in Mexico.*»

CALLE DE CORDOBANES.

COATEPANTLI.

Coateocalli.

1 2

1ª CALLE DE STO. DOMINGO.

1ª CALLE DEL RELOX

CALLE DE LAS ESCALERILLAS

Huitzilopochtli.

Tlaloc.

131 MET.

Gran Teocalli.

62 MET.

MET. 310. 00

EMPEDRADILLO.

JARDIN DE CATEDRAL Y

1ª CALLE DEL SEMINARIO

Aqui descubrió las
cabezas de culebra el Sr.
D. ANTONIO GARCIA CUBAS

JARDIN DE LA PLAZA Y TRAMO
ENTRE LA CATEDRAL Y EL JARDIN.

220 MET.

JARDIN DEL ZOCALO.

ESCALA, 1 MILIMETRO POR 1 METRO.

Plan of the Great Temple of Mexico,

Published by Dr. Seller.

a. *Teucalli*, the Temple.
b. *Quauhxicalli*, the vase of the eagle knights.
c. *Calmecatl*, the priest's dwellings.
d. *Yxmomoztli*, the front or outer altar.
e. *Quauhcalli*, the dwelling of the eagle knights.
f. *Teutlachtli*, the ball play–ground of the god.
g. *Tzumpantli*, the platform of the skulls.
h. *Yopico teucalli*, the temple Yopico, the temple of Xipe.
i. *Temalacatl*, the stone in the form of a wheel.
k. *Colhuacan*, the temple of Colhuacan.
l. *Macuil cuetzpalli*, the god «Five Eft.»
m. *Macuil calli*, the god «Five House.»
n. *Ytvalli*, the dancing esplanade, or the court of the Temple.
o. *Coatenamitl*, the wall of the serpents.
p. *Teuquiyaoatl yo excan callacovalla*, the doors of the gods; through them it could be entered from three different sides

The location and object of the buildings is shown by a kind of plan, as seen in plate I. In this plan the letters *a–p* have been placed according to the preceding ennumeration.

The great pyramid with grades is marked by the letter *a* in the plan. On the upper platform were the sanctuaries of the national gods, *Uitzilopochtli* and *Tlaloc*, the god of Rain, side by side. Both sanctuaries are marked in our plate, where it may be seen that each one was reached by a special stairway.

I shall add that according to the inequivocal language in Tezozomoc's *Crónica Mexicana*, [1] the upper platform was

1 Cap. 30.

reached by three flights of steps, and that the main front of the Temple looked toward the south, that is to say, toward the plaza which at present forms the center of the city. According to Tezozomoc also, as shown in our illustration, the court of the Temple could be entered through three gates made in the walls. This corrects Duran's erroneous statement in his description of the great Temple,[1] that there were four entrances to the four principal ways.

The number of steps, according to Tezozomoc, corresponded to the number of days in the year, or 360, each flight having 120 steps. This is corroborated by Cortés, who in his report of the conquest [2] says, that «over one hundred steps» gave access to the platform of the Temple. Motolinía[3] affirms the same thing, and Andrés de Tapia, [4] one of the conquerors, is still more specific, as he states that the number of steps was of 113, «more than one hand each.»

1 Historia de las Indias de la Nueva España, tratado II., cap. II.

2 Cartas y Relaciones de Hernán Cortés, ed. Gayangos, pags. 131, 218.

3 Tratado I., cap. XII.

4 Relación, pag. 582.

Explanation of the Plan of the Excavations in Escalerillas Street.

The dotted horizontal lines mark, in red figures, the distance between the corner of Escalerillas and Seminario streets and the place where the discovery was made.

The vertical lines from the longitudinal section to the central plane of the street mark, in metres and centimetres, the depth at which the objects were found.

The Roman numbers over each one of the lines correspond with the same numbers in the text, where the dates in which the discoveries made are to be found.

The arrow at the right hand end of each horizontal line marking the distance, touches the vertical line marking the depth of the finding. The coincidence of these points of interesection means that both the horizontal and vertical lines correspond to the same discovery.

The heavy dotted line along the center of the street represents the drainage trench in which the explorations were made.

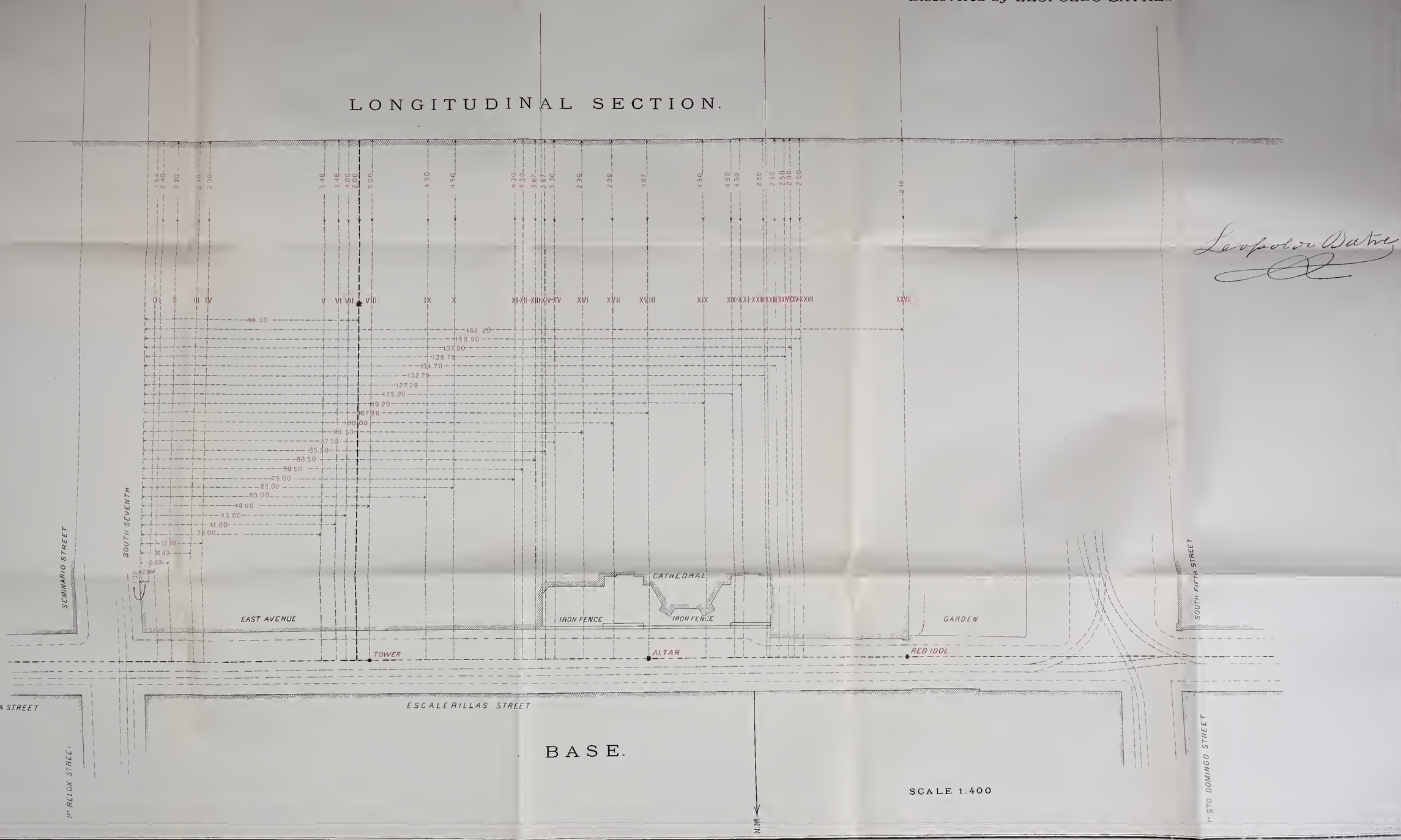
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ESCALERILLAS STREET

In the year 1900.

Discovered by LEOPOLDO BATRES.

LONGITUDINAL SECTION.



BASE.

SCALE 1:400

Leopoldo Batres

MY TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

on the

Mexican Central, Rock Island, Michigan Central, and New York Central Railroads.

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The next important place is Silao, Guanajuato, where may be obtained a very large variety of articles of industries purely Mexican, which are taken for sale to the stations by the makers themselves.

Farther on is the picturesque Aguascalientes, where the linen drawn work, which gives so much delight to the ladies, is made. This is also sold at the station. Here the branch line to San Luis Potosi and Tampico may be taken, along which the grandest tropical scenery can be contemplated.

Travelling on Zacatecas is passed, and then Torreon, where there is change of cars for Durango and Eagle Pass, Texas.

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LEOPOLDO BATRES.